

long remembered, and she is most definitely missed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEMOCRATS OUT OF MAINSTREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to put the lie to House Democrat rhetoric. The Democrat leadership, from Howard Dean to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), claim that House Republicans are out of the mainstream. Well, Mr. Speaker, if we are out of the mainstream, they are swimming downriver in some backwoods tributary.

From a parent's right to know what their children are doing, to protecting citizens across the country from the growing threat of gang violence, the House Democrat leadership is simply out to lunch.

Eight pieces of landmark legislation that passed this House with strong support from rank-and-file Democrats, and still the minority leadership refuses to see the light. On every one of these important bills, the gentlewoman from California (Leader PELOSI) chose to vote against legislation that the vast majority of Americans, Democrats and Republicans alike, approve of.

Bankruptcy reform, 73 Democrats voted for it, but Leader PELOSI did not. Class action reform, 50 Democrats voted for it, but Leader PELOSI did not. The Gang Deterrence and Protection Act of 2005, 71 Democrats voted for it, but Leader PELOSI did not. A new energy policy for America, 41 Democrats voted for it, and, you guessed it, Leader PELOSI did not. Protecting a parent's right to know before their daughter has an abortion, 54 Democrats voted for it, and Leader PELOSI did not.

It is as simple as this, Mr. Speaker. The House Democrat leadership is engaged in a strategy designed to do one and only one thing: prevent any and all action sponsored by Republicans from becoming law. Their obstruction of House Republicans' solutionist agenda shows just how far out of the mainstream they really are.

Mr. Speaker, it would be one thing if House Democrats tried to block legislation based on policy disagreements, but it is quite another for them to block legislation based on politics. And that, Mr. Speaker, is just what they are doing.

Democrats believe they can win at the ballot box by obstructing, and they would rather win the next election than move America forward. Make no

mistake: the votes I just spoke about are telling. Rank-and-file Democrats, those who believe what is best for America is more important than election politics, are brave in their defiance of their leaders. They understand that simply being the Democrat Party of No will not increase our security, build our economy, or create jobs.

If you need more proof, just look at retirement security. Republicans, led by President Bush, have the foresight to address the looming crisis facing tomorrow's retirees. We know that sometime in the near future, our Social Security system will be bankrupt.

□ 1700

If we do not make tough decisions now, future Americans will have to make even tougher ones. But Democrats just do not see a problem. Or is it that they would rather pretend there is not one?

When President Bush announced his intention to reform Social Security, he and other Republicans crossed the country to engage the American people in dialogue. He declared that nothing was off the table and signaled his willingness to consider any and all options. The Democrat response: refusal to come to the negotiating table.

One poll shows that by 61 percent to 29 percent Americans under 40 say that Social Security needs to be fixed. At the same time, many in the minority stick to their head-in-the-sand argument that there is no problem. Democrat leaders are not only out of the American mainstream, but are also out of the Democratic mainstream. Yet they have the gumption to accuse Republicans of being out of touch.

The American people must not buy into the Democrat rhetoric. They are doing a lot of talking. But do not confuse activity for achievement. What tangible results can the minority point to? The answer is none. They have no agenda. They have no vision and they have a fundamental misunderstanding of the issues we face as a Nation.

Democrats, not Republicans, Mr. Speaker, are the ones who are out of the mainstream.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2566. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment

of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, we want to spend some moments this evening talking about a subject which is a very high priority for a lot of Americans, including a number of us here in the Congress, and that has to do with embryonic stem cell research. I want to start out by telling you what the essence of a bill that we have dropped is. We filed this bill a couple of days ago. And then I will come back to this later on, to a more detailed discussion of it.

What I have here, Mr. Speaker, is a little depiction of what happens in the human body. This shows one-half of the reproductive tract of a female. This would be replicated, mirror image, on the other side, because here we are seeing only one ovary and one Fallopian tube and one-half of the uterus; and what this depicts, Mr. Speaker, is the sequence of events in the fertilization and the growth and the ultimate implantation of the embryo, this whole trip, not an unharmed trip for the embryo, because not all of them make that trip successfully.

In fact, probably about as many as two-thirds of those that are fertilized here never are implanted down in the uterus. But this is a sequence of events which takes 10 days, perhaps, to make the trip down to finally be implanted in the uterus.

Fertilization, as is noted here, occurs very far up in the Fallopian tube, and then there is a single cell called a zygote, and that splits to form two cells. They split to form four cells and eight cells. And we are going to come back and talk about those eight cells because that is the focus of a lot of attention in today's world, particularly in infertility clinics where they are doing in vitro fertilization.

Let us imagine now that that sequence of events is not occurring in the uterus and the fallopian tube of the mother, but it is occurring in a petri dish in the laboratory. For some reason, the mother cannot become pregnant, and so they, with the use of hormones, take eggs, generally more than one, from the mother, and they take sperm, of which there are millions, from the male, and they expose these eggs to sperm, and they are fertilized. And so the doctor has a number, generally several, of these fertilized embryos. And he looks under a microscope and determines the embryos which look the strongest, and then he implants them in the mother.

Because not every embryo takes when it is implanted in the mother, he